

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figure 5A, 7A, and 7B. In these Figures, reference numerals have been amended.

Attachments: Replacement Sheets (3)
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes (3)

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and following comments is courteously solicited.

Initially the undersigned would like to thank Examiner Behrend for the courtesies extended during a personal interview held with the undersigned on October 14, 2004.

The examiner in his office action dated July 8, 2004 rejected previously submitted claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Applicant by the instant amendment has amended the specification and has submitted proposed drawing corrections with regard to reference numerals only and Applicants believe that the amendments to the specification and drawings obviates the examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. The specification and drawings clearly indicate that the outer perimeter of the spacer grid 10 is formed by a plurality of perimeter strips 40 each of which comprises a plurality of unit intermediate strips 40' and two unit corner strips 40". Additional reference numerals have been added to Figure 5A so as to be consistent with the foregoing. Stated in another way, each perimeter strip 40 comprises a plurality of intermediate sections 40' between corner sections 40". Each of the intermediate units 40' include a spring element 50 as shown in Figure 7A while each corner unit 40" has a spring element 50 as shown in Figure 7B. Thus, as

noted above, the intermediate units 40' with the corner units 40" form a unitary perimeter strip 40. In light of the use of additional reference numerals and amendments to the specification it is submitted that the claims are now definite within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

With regard to the objection of claim 3 regarding the "guide vanes" or "guide tabs", claim 3 has been rendered definite by adding the reference numerals referring to same. With regard to claim 5, the word "thus" has been deleted.

With regard to the examiner's prior art rejections, Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for the reasons set forth hereinbelow.

The examiner has applied U.S. Patent 4,224,107 against previously submitted independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102. it is submitted that the '107 patent does not anticipate or render obvious the structure set forth in independent claim 1 as amended. For the examiner's convenience reference numerals have been added to independent claim 1. The grid spring as defined in originally filed independent claim 1 and as presented in amended claim 1 is not shown, anticipated or rendered obvious by the '107 patent. Portion 6 (which forms a vertical support part) does not extend vertically in a vertical opening between central portions of a top and bottom edge of the vertical opening as claimed in independent claim 1. The portion 6 as

shown in figures 5 and 6 is not "in an opening". It is submitted that the '107 patent cannot be said to anticipate the structure of independent claim 1 or the claims which depend therefrom. The same is true with respect to U.S. Patent 6,393,087. This is clear from Figures 5, 6 and 7 of the '087 patent. The same is true with respect to the Mayat et al. '567 patent. Again, this structure is similar to the structure discussed above with regard to the Delafosse et al. '107 patent. The secondary references to DeMario and Nguyen et al. fail to cure the deficiencies noted above with regard to the primary references. Accordingly, it is submitted that the claims as presented herein patentably define over the applied references and an early indication of allowability is respectfully requested.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and

early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyung-Ho Yoon et al.

By

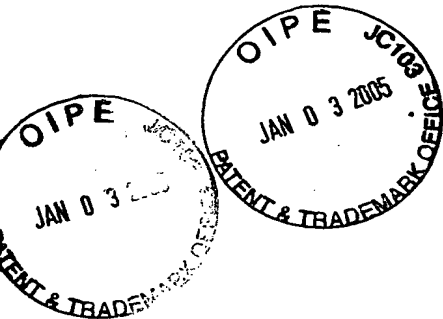


Gregory P. LaPointe
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 28,395
Tel: (203) 777-6628
Fax: (203) 865-0297

Date: December 30, 2004

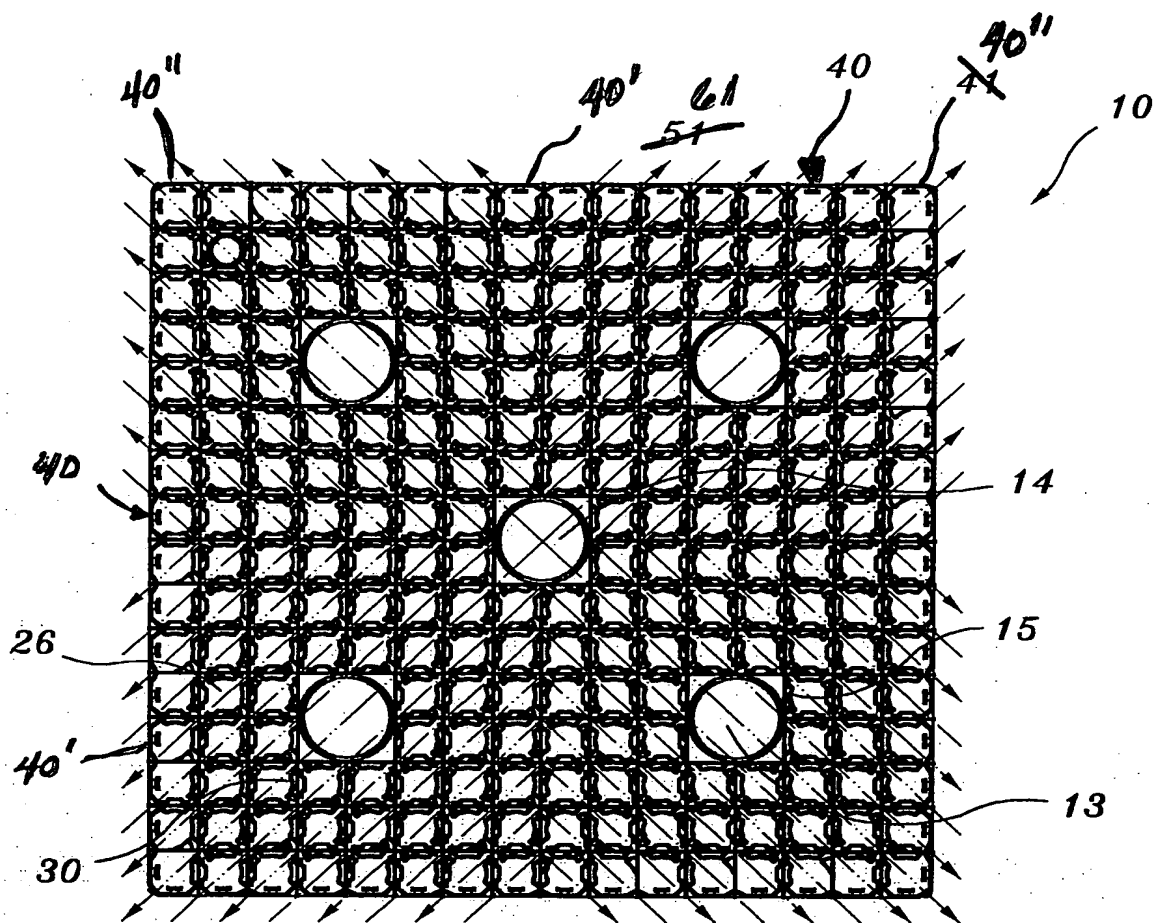
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on December 30, 2004.


Rachel Piscitelli



6/14

Fig. 5A



10/14

Fig. 7B

